

Serial No. 10/673,723
Art Unit 3725

Amendment B After Final

Remarks:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed August 4, 2005 and made final, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-9 in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Nguyen has continued his rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Annis, U.S. Patent No. 4,605,456. The Examiner's position is that the claimed invention (which is directed to among other things, the winder remaining in contact with the winder peripheral strap path as the winder rotates) is disclosed in Annis.

Applicant has amended the claims to indicate that the winder arm is configured to remain in continuous contact with the winder peripheral strap path as the winder rotates. This is not the structure disclosed in Annis. Rather, in Annis, the winder arm rides along the edge of the winder and cannot remain in contact with the strap path. Specifically, it can be seen in FIG. 6 of Annis, as the winder rotates, there is a raised edge on the winder that the arm (roller 104) rides on. Looking at the 12:00 position of the winder (in FIG. 6), it can be seen that the strap resides in a pathway that is "lower" than the edge of the winder. Accordingly, the winder arm does not remain in contact with the strap path; rather, it rides on a raised edge of the winder.

To this end, Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are allowable over the art of record and in condition for allowance and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

Applicant submits that no fee is due in connection with the present AMENDMENT B AFTER FINAL. If, however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should any petitions be necessary, it is respectfully requested that the present paper constitute any such necessary petition.

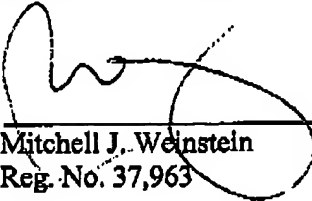
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Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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